

Immediate Release:

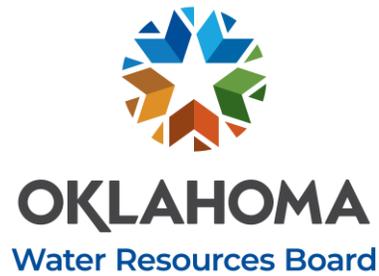
October 18, 2022

## Lawton Water Authority receives \$72,900,000 wastewater system loan from OWRB

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Lawton Water Authority (Authority) received approval for a \$72,900,000 loan Tuesday from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to improve the Authority’s Wastewater infrastructure. Construction of upgrades and improvements to the wastewater system will be financed by the Oklahoma Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).

The Authority was previously approved for funding in May 2021 for rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment plant. Over the course of time, costs of the project have increased and the Authority is in need of additional funding to complete the WWTP rehabilitation. The Authority will also be using these funds to replace approximately 10,000 automatic water meters (AMRs) and AMR radio servers on the existing water towers, all have reached their useful life and need to be replaced. These improvements will allow the facility to continue to meet the treatment and compliance goals and will help meet Oklahoma’s Water for 2060 goals by focusing on water conservation and efficiency and reduce unintended flows to the wastewater treatment facility thereby reducing the discharge to Nine Mile Creek.

Joe Freeman, Chief of the OWRB’s Financial Assistance Division, calculated that the Authority’s customers will save an estimated \$31,553,100 over the life of the 30-year loan compared to traditional financing. The CWSRF loan will be secured with a lien on the revenues of the Authority’s water, sewer and sanitation systems and a mortgage. Lawton Water Authority’s officials attending the OWRB’s monthly meeting in support of the loan application included Rusty Whisenhunt, Lawton’s Public Utilities Director.



The CWSRF program is administered by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board with partial funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The CWSRF program has provided approximately \$2.3 billion in water quality loans to provide communities the resources necessary to maintain and improve the infrastructure that protects our valuable water resources statewide.

Since 1983, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has approved over \$6 billion in loans and grants for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements throughout Oklahoma.

“We are grateful to State Legislators from the Lawton metro area for their support of our financial assistance programs,” said Julie Cunningham, Executive Director of the OWRB.

#####

Contact:

Joe Freeman

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

(405) 530-8800

[Joe.Freeman@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:Joe.Freeman@owrb.ok.gov)